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Thursday, March 7, 2013

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STOMPIN' TOM DIES

HE STOMPED HIS WAY TO GLORY WITH SONGS ABOUT CANADIAN LIFE, CHRONICLING EVERYTHING FROM BUD THE SPUD TO THE GOOD OLD HOCKEY GAME. STOMPIN' TOM CONNORS DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES WEDNESDAY. PAGE 10

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CROSSROADS

Alberta Finance Minister Doug Horner shines his shoes in advance of the Alberta budget which will be unveiled Thursday, at the Alberta Legislature. Traditionally, finance ministers present the budget in a new pair of shoes, but Horner shined old ones, as the government prepares to present a lean plan. Visit metronews.ca for complete budget coverage. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spending won't match growth, Redford says

Budget. Province hopes to take the first step to getting off its day-to-day dependence on oil and gas revenues

Alberta's budget, to be unveiled Thursday, will be so lean, it won't even keep up with provincial growth, Premier Alison Redford said Wednesday.

Redford told reporters her government would need to hike spending by four per cent over last year's budget of $41 billion just to keep up with population growth plus inflation.

"The severe downturn in resource revenues has made even that (four per cent) level of growth unsustainable," said Redford.

"In tomorrow's budget our spending will be far below — far below — estimated population growth and inflation.

"With the province growing as quickly as Alberta, that does mean a significant measure of restraint, and it means that we do have to make some very difficult choices."

Redford has said the budget will be a watershed document that will lay out long-term plans for spending and saving, and take the first step to getting the province off its day-to-day dependence on oil and gas revenues.

Her government, which has prided itself on being debt-free, has begun borrowing to pay for big-ticket infrastructure projects like twinning the highway to the oilsands hub of Fort McMurray.

Redford and Finance Minister Doug Horner have also recently hedged on promises to balance the books on the day-to-day operating side.

The premier has said all will become clear when Horner unveils the budget Thursday afternoon.

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith has criticized Redford for record spending when times were good, but said she is cautiously optimistic that the new mantra of lean spending represents a foundational shift.

"I'm not quite sure that I believe the premier on that, but we'll see because we've been calling for this for years," said Smith.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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No space. Grade 7 students shut out in school move

The decision to move grade 8 and 9 students from two overcrowded southwest Edmonton schools continues to upset parents, who are being told there may not be space for their Grade 7 students at the newly designated schools.

The superintendent of Edmonton Public Schools announced that grade 8 and 9 students from Johnny Bright will attend D.S. MacKenzie come September, while those from Esther Starkman will attend Avalon.

"I think you're going to see a lot of Grade 6 students enrolling in Avalon in the future just so they can have the experience of 7, 8 and 9," said Mike Lanteigne, parent council chair at Esther Starkman, after the announcement.

Daylin Breen, Johnny Bright parent council chair, said parents who have contacted D.S. MacKenzie have been told they will not be allowed to send their students to the school for Grade 7 if the student's designated school is Johnny Bright.

Jane Sterling, spokesperson for the Edmonton Public School Board, said the decision to allow Grade 7 students from Johnny Bright into D.S. MacKenzie will depend on room.

"It comes down to space and the fact is (the Grade 7 students) can still be accommodated at Johnny Bright and Esther Starkman," Sterling said.

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

A partial map of the annexation area shows it would extend well into Leduc County including the International airport. The annexation would also include an area on the east side of Highway 2. CITY OF EDMONTON

Annexation proof city is spreading too far: Critics

Land grab. Process would add 15,600 hectares to Edmonton

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Edmonton's recently announced annexation plans will only further the city's sprawl problem, according to critics of the move.

The plan to annex land in Leduc County, announced yesterday, would consume 15,600 hectares of land south of the city, along the west side of Highway 2 down to the international airport and on the east side extending to just north of the Town of Beaumont.

Announcing the plan Tuesday, Mayor Stephen Mandel said the city needed more room to accommodate future residential growth.

"We have to have the right to grow," he said.

Debbie Hubbard of the Greater Edmonton Alliance opposed the proposed Horse Hills area structure plan in the city's northeast last week because of its impact on farmland.

She said the annexation move is further proof the city is not paying enough attention to urban farmland.

"Here they are, not even a week later, planning to annex some of the region that is going to grow our food," she said.

Coun. Linda Sloan was the lone vote against the annexation on city council. In an email she said she doesn't believe it makes financial sense for the city, because suburban growth will cost more to service than the taxes it brings in.

"I view pursuing further growth as financially risky to the point of irresponsibility," she said.

"I think we need to better manage what we already have. For these reasons, I voted no."

Mayor Mandel said he believes the city needs both infill developments, like the city centre airport redevelopment, and suburban growth to cater to what home buyers want.

"If we don't have a choice in the City of Edmonton, people will go elsewhere," he said.

Land ho!

The proposed annexation would be the first the city has undertaken in 30 years.

- **Rival claim.** The Town of Beaumont has not submitted a formal application but has also expressed interest in annexing the same land.

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Transit woes. LRT repairs causing bigger delays than expected

Work on the LRT system between the Churchill and Central stations is causing more headaches and delays than the city first thought.

This week Edmonton Transit Service started work to replace the 35-year-old rails, which were put in when the system was first built and are now reaching the end of their life span.

The original plan envisioned that the frequency of service would remain essentially the same, but according to the city, that has proved more difficult than expected.

Patricia Dickson, a spokesperson for the city, said the system experiences minor delays all the time, but because of the bottleneck with one track running they are becoming a bigger problem.

"Recovering from those delays is more difficult and is noticed more when we have a piece of single tracking involved," she said.

Dickson said most of the delays are routine issues, like doors not closing or small signal issues, but having only one track just magnifies them.

"When you have a minor delay running two tracks that is one thing, if you have a minor delay with a single track piece in there it gets exacerbated."

Dickson said transit officials are working on a new plan and schedule. She said that schedule will likely include a reduced service, but a more regular service.

She said they hoped to have the new plan released before the end of the week.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

More repairs ongoing

The city is also replacing warning tiles at Central Station and has blocked off a portion of the platform for the work. The work is expected to conclude at the end of April.

The replacement of rails between Churchill and Central station is causing more trouble and delays than the city expected. METRO FILE

Labour unrest. Teacher job action wouldn't come until at least fall: Union

On Wednesday, the eve of Alberta's provincial budget release, teacher representatives again attempted to dissolve suggestions of possible job action.

And Carol Henderson, president of the Alberta Teachers' Association, said the earliest she could see such measures on the table would be this fall during the 2013-14 school year.

"The minister is the only one talking about strikes — we're certainly not," she said.

Henderson's comments come on the heels of a particularly tense few weeks between her organization and Education Minister Jeff Johnson.

The ATA sent a flow chart to media Wednesday indicating ongoing local bargaining is only at the "bargaining agent" process and would need to pass through another eight steps before considering a strike vote.

But Kim Capstick, the minister's press secretary, said the threat of labour action still looms.

"If we are really going to make all the decisions based on what is good for kids then we have to prevent any possibility of disruption," she said.

Capstick wouldn't speculate on legislated contracts, but said Johnson will do everything to prevent disruption.

It is fair to say that he wants to make sure that we do everything in our power to prevent any disruption in the classroom, I won't speculate on how, but it is about prevention.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

Quoted

"I don't know why the minister has taken this so personally, that we rejected the offer ... now he's talking a lot about labour action and settlements."

Carol Henderson, Alberta Teachers' Association president

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University of Alberta researcher Donna Wilson's work was published this month and shows that many Albertans believe people should have a right to die. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

77.4% of Albertans favour right to die

Survey. U of A study finds many Albertans support assisted suicide

More than three-quarters of Albertans favour legal changes that would allow for assisted suicide in the province, according to a new University of Alberta Study.

The study, published in the March issue of a Health and Social Care in the Community, found that 77.4 per cent of Albertans favoured a right for dying adults to end their life early.

Researcher Donna Wilson, with the school's nursing program, said she did the research because she wanted to clear the air around the controversial issue.

"There are a lot of myths out there. There is a lot of guesswork out there and this points out that 77 per cent of adult Albertans, in a very good representative sample, in a good study, are in favour of assisted suicide."

Wilson said her survey is not a definitive answer to such a complex social question, but she hopes it continues an important discussion.

"We have this very large baby boom generation that has always set trends and so this is why I don't think our discussion over euthanasia or assisted suicide will ever go away." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Breaking it down

- In the survey, 36.8 per cent said people should be able to end their life early and receive help doing so, while another 40.6 per cent said they should under specific circumstances, and 22.6 per cent answered no.

Slave Lake

Man charged with 2nd-degree murder

A 30-year-old Slave Lake man is facing charges after RCMP responded to an incident at a residence in the town around 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, where they found a body.

The victim has been identified as Brett Cardinal, 26, also of the Slave Lake area. RCMP said Wednesday that the accused and the victim knew one another, and that this was not a random act.

Leonard Glenn Willier has been charged with second degree murder and assault with a weapon.
METRO

Annual Teddys. Cusanelli earns Alberta another 'award' for wasteful spending

For the second year running, Alberta has been awarded the provincial Teddy award, a dubious distinction handed out by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

This year, it goes to former Tourism Minister Christine Cusanelli, who billed taxpayers when she took her mother and daughter to the London Olympics. She later paid the money back.

The Teddy awards spotlight waste in government at every level, said Gregory Thomas, national director of the CTF.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Christine Cusanelli METRO FILE

Michelle Lam holds photos taken to document the 365 small acts of kindness she is completing.
ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Student making the 'little things' count

Three Six Five. Michelle Lam is documenting her efforts to perform an act of kindness every day for a year

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
annalise.klingbeil@metronews.ca

Day 11: Bought lunch for a homeless person.

Day 60: Handed out colouring books on a plane.

Day 108: Gave Timbits to a random group of students.

These are just some of the small acts of kindness Michelle Lam has completed over the past 131 days.

Inspired by a video on a friend's Facebook wall, the 20-year-old decided to start a kindness project of her own in October.

She bought a Fujifilm instant camera and committed to do one kind task for someone else every day for 365 days.

The University of Alberta business student also created a blog where she posts the photo and story behind her daily deed in an effort to empower others to be kind.

"I really think the little things we do can go a long way," Lam says.

Project Three Six Five has forced her to think about her actions differently and pushed her out of her comfort zone, she says.

"It's made me talk to strangers and I would have never talked to strangers before."

Some of her kind deeds are anonymous — filling a stranger's parking meter or wiping snow off a stranger's windshield.

Others involve interacting with strangers — sharing a coffee or teaching someone to snowboard. Lam explains the project to them and takes their photo.

Early in the project Lam purchased a hot lunch for a homeless man, and she says while it took "so much courage" to talk to the stranger, she was happy she did and she enjoyed hearing the man's stories about his life.

"Everybody could use a little bit of encouragement at times," she says. "Why not try to make that difference?"

On Thursday, Lam will speak at Pecha Kucha about the project to encourage others to incorporate intentional acts of kindness into their own routines.

More online

- Michelle Lam is blogging about her kindness project at ProjectThreeSixFive.ca.

(De)Facing a nuisance crime

Decrease. Graffiti vandalism down slightly in 20 city neighbourhoods in 2012

Some call it art, others just a nuisance.

But city groups and police know otherwise: graffiti vandalism is a crime that can snowball into greater criminal behaviour, affecting homeowners and businesses wherever it exists.

Which is why it's good Edmonton experienced a decrease last year, when compared with 2011.

"Graffiti vandalism is an important issue in Edmonton, as it victimizes us where we live, work and play — we can't become complacent," Coun. Jane Batty said at the release of Capital City Clean Up's third annual graffiti audit Wednesday.

The survey showed a 1.5 per cent decrease in total graffiti found through 2012 — that's 1,116 individual incidents of graffiti in primarily inner-city neighbourhoods.

While graffiti vandalism (usually text, but sometimes multi-coloured, spray-painted images) was found in 438 locations last year (down from 543 locations in 2011), just five neighbourhoods bore the brunt: Downtown, Strathcona, Garneau, Central McDougall and Queen Mary Park, with 45 per cent of all graffiti vandalism.

Citizens are encouraged to report graffiti to 311, or call 911 if graffiti vandalism is witnessed in progress.

"Prevention is a shared responsibility between EPS, the city and the community," said Sharon Chapman, graffiti project manager with Capital City Clean Up.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

Analysis

EPS nab top graffiti tagger

Edmonton police have charged a 17-year-old male for graffiti offences throughout downtown and west Edmonton, after police spotted the teen riding his bike in late January, suspiciously covered with paint on his hands, face and clothing, and carrying spray cans.

The teen, believed to be the prolific tagger known as "Brute," has been charged with 151 counts of mischief.

The youth, who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, is believed to be responsible for graffiti vandalism on over 250 public and private property locations since 2010.

Const. Ryan Katchur said Wednesday that police continue to investigate the case, and additional charges are pending.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

An example of the most common graffiti vandalism in our city – text defacing homes and businesses, especially in the city's core.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

On the web

For more local news go to metronews.ca

By the numbers

- A 2012 city graffiti audit released Wednesday showed 275 taggers were responsible for 69 per cent of all graffiti vandalism found, and just 10 taggers alone for 40 per cent.

2013 election

Board trustee candidates to face disclosure bylaw

Edmonton Public School Board candidates running in the 2013 election will have to adhere to a new campaign disclosure bylaw approved for development Tuesday.

Prior to the decision, there had been no requirement for candidates running for the office of school board trustee to disclose their campaign contributions and expenses. METRO

Turning himself in

Abduction suspect arrested

Edmonton police have charged a 40-year-old man with attempted kidnapping in connection to the alleged abduction of a 19-year-old.

Kabelo Setlhong turned himself into police on Tuesday and has been charged with attempted kidnapping and dangerous driving.

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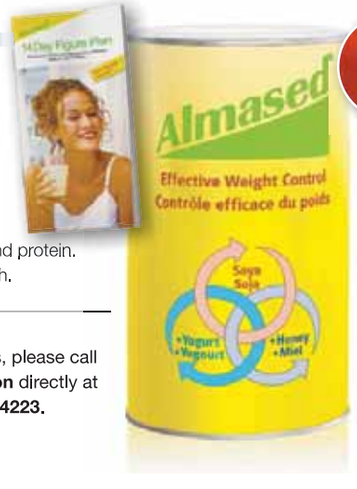

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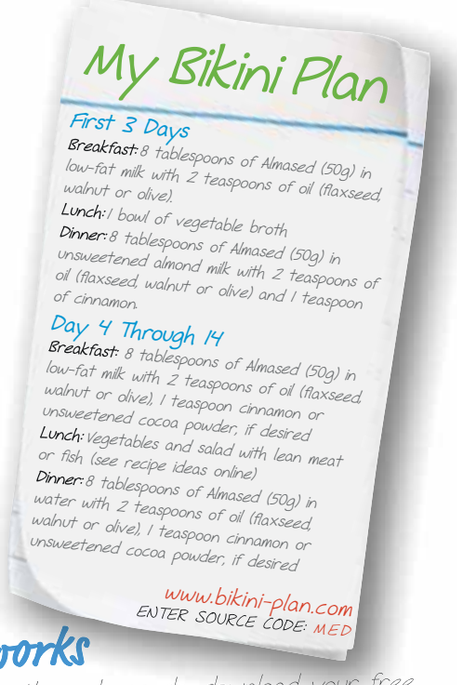

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True icon. Stompin' Tom leaves final message to fans just before his death

Canadian country-folk legend Stompin' Tom Connors, whose toe-tapping musical spirit and fierce patriotism established him as one of Canada's strongest cultural icons, has died. He was 77.

Connors passed away Wednesday from what a spokesperson described as "natural causes."

Brian Edwards said the musician, rarely seen without his signature black cowboy hat and stomping cowboy boots, knew his health was declining and had penned a message for his fans a few days before his death.

In the message posted on his website, Connors says Canada kept him "inspired with its beauty, character, and spirit, driving me to keep marching on and devoted to sing about its people and places that make Canada the greatest country in the world."

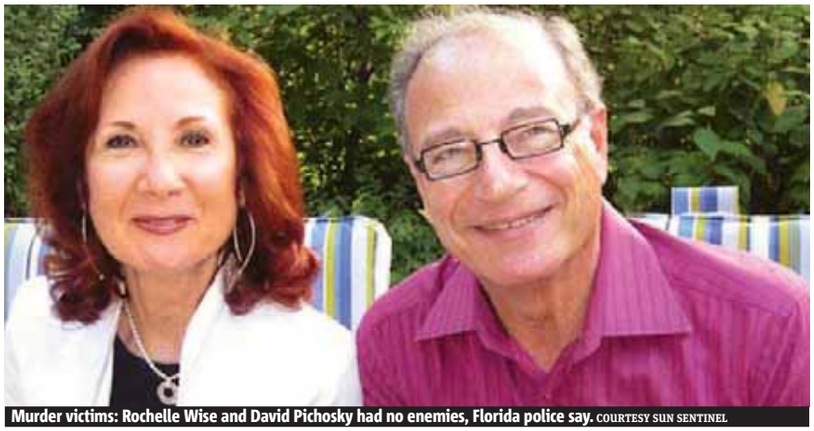
Connors is survived by his wife, Lena, two sons, two daughters and several grandchildren.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stompin' Tom Connors died Wednesday. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Who'd kill a 'nice' couple?

'Senseless' deaths in Florida. Multiple suspects hunted in murder of Canadians enjoying their retirement together



Murder victims: Rochelle Wise and David Pichosky had no enemies, Florida police say. COURTESY SUN SENTINEL

More grim details emerged Wednesday about the "senseless" homicide of a "nice" Canadian couple in Florida that has left police mystified.

Rochelle Wise, 66, and David Pichosky, 71, were killed by asphyxiation in their winter home in Hallandale Beach, police say.

But why?

They had no enemies and likely didn't know their killers, police say.

Investigators believe they are looking for multiple suspects, but haven't been able to figure out any motive.

"As the details come out I believe the public will be shocked just to know how senseless this murder was," said police Chief Dwayne Flournoy.

"It angers me that someone came into this home and killed these two people who, (from) what we've been able to identify ... have no enemies.

"They were nice people. They were enjoying their retirement.

"They were enjoying their new marriage."

Family and friends are appealing for people to come forward with information.

Crime Stoppers USA is offering a $51,000 reward — most of it coming from an anonymous donor.

Police have received fewer than 100 tips and though the force is dedicating all the resources it can to the case, they still need more information, said Flournoy — who appealed directly to people who may be involved but are "less culpable."

"We just need that one break or that one piece to the puzzle so that we can fill it all in,'' Flournoy said.

Wise's son Jamie said she had "worked hard her whole life and finally found love."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Just help us get an end to this."

Pearl Gladman, a friend, appealing for information

CONSUMERS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING: * All offers and Selling Price include Delivery & Destination ($1,550 for Kizashi/$1,450 for SX4/$1,650 for Grand Vitara models), Dealer Administration Fee ($299), $100 A/C Excise Tax (where applicable), $20 Tire Tax. Offers exclude PPSA up to $72 (when financing), applicable taxes, license, registration, insurance and a down payment of $0. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. These offers cannot be combined with any other offers and are subject to change without notice. The cash credit offer of $400 on 2012 Kizashi S iAWD, $5000 on 2012 Grand Vitara, $4000 on 2012 SX4 JA iAWD & $4000 on 2012 SX4 JE sedan cannot be combined with any other offer. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealers for details. Vehicle images shown may include optional upgrades. Limited time cash savings offers are available on a new 2012 Kizashi S iAWD Model 6B233C2 (Selling Price $25,964), 2012 SX4 Crossover JA iAWD with manual transmission Model H3NB2G2 (Selling Price $18,664), 2012 Grand Vitara Urban 4WD with automatic transmission Model L2NB5U2 (Selling Price $24,064), and a SX4 Sedan JE MT Model S3LB1G2 (Selling Price $13,264). Offer valid until March 31, 2013. When properly equipped.

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A supporter of Venezuela's late president Hugo Chavez holds a picture of him above a crowd waiting for Chavez's coffin to be taken from the hospital, where he died on Tuesday, to a military academy where it will remain until his funeral in Caracas.

RICARDO MAZALAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chavez mourned by tearful supporters

Venezuela. Tens of thousands line the streets of Caracas, mourning the death of their influential leader

A flag-draped coffin carrying the body of the late Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez floated over a sea of supporters on Wednesday on its way to a military academy where it will lie in state. Away from the procession route, jittery Venezuelans facing an uncertain future without their larger-than-life leader flocked to supermarkets and gas stations to stock up on supplies, preparing for the worst a day after Chavez succumbed to cancer.

Tens of thousands lined the streets or walked with the casket in the capital, many weeping as the body approached, led by a grim drum major. Other mourners pumped their fists and held aloft images of the late president, amid countless waving yellow, blue and red Venezuelan flags. "The fight goes on! Chavez lives!" the mourners shouted in unison, many through eyes red from crying late into the night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Getting to the heart of the matter

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Normal Triglyceride Levels ☐	Elevated Triglycerides ☐	Allergies ☐
	Circulatory Issues ☐	Chronic Prostatitis ☐
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Facebook redesign appeals to advertisers

Facebook will be offering content-specific feeds and larger ads. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Still your friend? News feed will also include content-specific options

Facebook is expected to unveil a fresh design of its news feed on Thursday, with changes said to include multiple content-specific feeds and larger advertisements.

The news feed has not significantly changed since 2006, and the long-awaited update is expected to make the social-networking site more attractive to advertisers.

"It's a direct shot across the bow at Google," said IDC analyst Kevin Restivo. "Those two companies are mortal enemies and this just brings them into greater competition against each other. The battleground is the advertising field."

At a news conference, Facebook promised to introduce a "new look for news feed."

In its current form, the news feed is a chronological stream of updates from friends, celebrities and companies that users follow, with few options to organize the content.

Facebook has been tight-lipped about its plans, but technology news site TechCrunch reported the company will offer new ways to filter your news feed, allowing users to switch between different categories.

For example, one could click on a photos feed to see friends' Facebook and Instagram snapshots, or a redesigned music feed to see what they're listening to. A media feed, with the latest updates from news websites, could also be an option. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Red Chamber. Senator facing heat for expense claims, relationship

Media reports say Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu is in a romantic relationship with his aide, Isabelle Lapointe. FACEBOOK

A Quebec senator is in the spotlight over reports he is in a romantic relationship with an employee on Parliament Hill.

Conservative Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, 64, is the latest member of the Red Chamber to come under scrutiny as part of the ongoing controversy surrounding expense claims.

Montreal-based newspaper La Presse reported this weekend that Boisvenu claimed more than $20,000 in living expenses for his time spent in the Ottawa area, while claiming his primary residence is in Sherbrooke, Que.

Meanwhile, the newspaper reported Boisvenu is involved romantically with his aide, Isabelle Lapointe, a former criminal analyst whom he hired to be his executive assistant, also in charge of communications.

The relationship appears to go against rules governing the hiring of employees at the Senate of Canada, as far as they were explained to other media, but communications staff refused to state those rules when asked about them on Tuesday.

Neither Lapointe nor Boisvenu responded to interview requests on Tuesday.

Boisvenu told La Presse his personal life has nothing to do with anyone but him.

Boisvenu also explained the allowance by saying that it is his legal permanent address until his divorce is finalized.

A Senate standing committee appeared to conclude his expense claims were legitimate. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec

Morgue worker fired for collecting pics of deceased

Quebec's coroner's office has confirmed the firing of an employee in the wake of a news report that a morgue worker collected pictures of dead women and children.

The chief coroner said Wednesday that the employee was dismissed last year, months after officials received a tip from a colleague and investigated.

Chief coroner Louise Nolet would not comment on a news report that the employee created a library of photos, gathered since 1995, and would look at them when his colleagues left the room. Quebec's TVA network said the employee worked at the Quebec City morgue. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pop star Carly Rae Jepsen, of Mission, B.C. JOEL RYAN/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scouts Canada to Jepsen: We share your pro-gay stance

Book her maybe.
Singer cancelled Boy Scouts of America gig over group's LGBT policy

In the wake of Carly Rae Jepsen's cancellation of her Boy Scouts of America (BSA) performance due to the group's exclusion of gay people, Scouts Canada is reaffirming its stance on inclusiveness — and says Jepsen is welcome at their jamboree.

The Canadian pop star said on Twitter that "as an artist who believes in equality for all people" she was pulling out of the BSA's jamboree in July. Rock band Train also warned that it won't appear unless the organization stops barring participation by gay scouts or adult leaders.

BSA director of publicity Deron Smith said the organization appreciates "everyone's right to express an opinion."

In May, the Boy Scouts of America's 1,400-member National Council is expected to consider a proposal to allow sponsors of local Scout units to decide for themselves whether to admit gay people.

Meanwhile, Scouts Canada — fully separate from the BSA — clearly stipulates it "does not discriminate for reasons of gender, culture, religious belief or sexual orientation."

In 2001, the organization's social-justice and diversity policy reaffirmed its stance, noted Kaylee Galipeau, national youth commissioner and chair of the national youth network for Scouts Canada.

"It's really just been an opportunity for us to remind people that ... we're vibrant in Canada, we're growing and we are open to everyone," she said from Valhalla Centre, Alta.

Scouts Canada is preparing to host its jamboree from July 6 to 13 in Sylvan Lake, Alta. Galipeau extended an invitation to both Train and Jepsen to attend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scouts Canada

"We accept boys and girls, we accept LGBT members, we accept people of all faiths."

Kaylee Galipeau, national youth commissioner and chair of the national youth network for Scouts Canada.

Puerto Rico

Woman appeals gay-adoption ruling

A lesbian whose adoption request was recently denied by Puerto Rico's Supreme Court is appealing the ruling.

The woman's partner gave birth to a girl, now 12, through in-vitro fertilization. Attorney Nora Vargas represents the woman and said Wednesday that it is in the child's best interest for the woman to adopt the girl as the second parent.

The announcement of the appeal comes two weeks after the high court voted 5-4 to uphold a law banning gay couples from adopting children.

It was the first time the court heard a case on same-sex adoptions.

Legislators in the U.S. territory are considering several proposals to extend more rights to gays and lesbians. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico

U.S. tourist killed by tidal wave

Officials said a giant wave struck a pair of U.S. tourists strolling on the beach near the famous stone arch in the Mexican resort of Cabo San Lucas, killing a 65-year-old woman and leaving a 70-year-old man in serious condition.

State police said the two were walking back to their hotel when they were hit by the wave and dragged out to sea on Tuesday. They were pulled out by navy personnel. The woman was declared dead and the man was in serious condition Wednesday.

Authorities said the woman had a Wisconsin driver's licence and the man had one from Nebraska, but it was unclear where they were currently living or whether next of kin had been notified.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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F-35s. Jet's blind spot could cause pilot deaths, Pentagon report shows

The F-35 jet, eyed as Canada's fighter of the future, may have a fatal flaw — a blind spot that prevents pilots from "checking their six" or easily watching for an enemy behind them, a new report says.

Experienced fighter pilots who have flown the high-tech aircraft say the design shortfall could cost future F-35 pilots their lives.

"Aft visibility will get the pilot gunned every time," wrote one American pilot, who flew the fighter last fall at Florida's Eglin Air Force Base.

"The head rest is too large and will impede aft visibility and survivability during surface and air engagements," wrote another.

Their comments are contained in a recent assessment prepared by the U.S. Defense Department of the F-35A and the system to train new pilots how to fly it.

The Feb. 15 report, prepared by Michael Gilmore, director of operational test and evaluation, paints a sobering picture of an aircraft that remains far from being combat-ready. Pilots who flew the aircraft last fall faced a litany of "significant" restrictions that barred them from flying at night, in bad weather, in formation with other aircraft, doing aerobatics or testing the jet's combat capabilities.

"As a result of the immaturity of the F-35A, student pilots were limited in flight maneuvering to very basic aircraft handling," the report says.

"The aircraft is still very immature; utility of available training is limited."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian pilot

Despite the report's concerns, one Canadian remains bullish on the jet's abilities. Billy Flynn, a former CF-18 pilot and squadron commander, is now an F-35 test pilot and says the jet is better than anything he's flown.

The costs of drinking

Alcohol one of the top health threats to Canadians: Report

It's a sobering nationwide report with a stark conclusion: Alcohol is one of the greatest public-health threats in Canada. And the provinces are not doing enough to curb its deadly potential.

Lead author and scientist Dr. Norman Giesbrecht said it is mind-boggling how lax harm-reduction policies are across the country.

Giesbrecht's report, which notes 80 per cent of Canadians drink, ranks provinces on 10 key harm-reduction policies, including pricing, availability, marketing, legal drinking age and warning labels.

Giesbrecht says the lack of attention to the problem of alcohol runs contrary to statistics: Alcohol accounted for eight per cent of all deaths (under 70 years old) in 2002, and between 1996 and 2010, total consumption increased by 13 per cent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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GT model shown

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GT model shown

GS-SKY model shown

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Landmark penalty

EU fines Microsoft for breaking pledge

The European Union has fined Microsoft about $750 million for breaking a pledge to offer personal computer users a choice of Internet browsers when they install the company's flagship Windows operating system.

The penalty imposed by the EU's executive arm, the Commission, is a first for Brussels: no company has ever failed to keep its end of a bargain with EU authorities before.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.95¢ (-0.33¢)

TSX 12,831.96 (+95.93)

OIL $90.43 US (-39¢)

GOLD $1,574.90 US (unchanged)

Natural gas: $3.48 (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 14,296.24 (+42.47)

Top, the groovy three-decade-old Bay logo recognizable to all Canadians is being replaced by the more modern and streamlined version shown underneath. The retailer will now be known as Hudson's Bay instead of The Bay. HBC

Goodbye, swirly B: Bay gets rebranded

Modern makeover. Retailer will now be called Hudson's Bay and use updated logo

The Bay is going back to its roots under a plan to rebrand its operations with a different name and new logo. The department store retailer says it will now be called Hudson's Bay, a nod to its parent company.

A refreshed logo uses the company's name in a simple type face. The full version resurrects its corporate coat of arms, which features a shield and cross, as well as beavers, a fox and two elk.

A spokeswoman for the company says the rest of the rebranding effort will roll out over time. The new logo already has been incorporated into the company's loyalty program, which will now be called Hudson's Bay Rewards.

The retailer called the reworking of its brand "a marriage between yesterday's history and tomorrow's vision." Plans are to gradually take down The Bay signs at its retail locations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Time for a change

1965

The department-store retailer says this is its first major logo revamp since 1965.

Shell shock. Taco Bell fans hot over Cool Ranch delay

Some Taco Bell fans in the U.S. are angry after they couldn't get their hands on the chain's new tacos made with Cool Ranch Doritos shells a day early.

The fast-food chain had announced this week that it would release its highly-anticipated Cool Ranch Doritos Locos Tacos in the U.S. on Wednesday, a day earlier than planned.

But then some fans began posting on the chain's Facebook page complaining their local restaurants didn't have them yet. They said they were told by local employees that the tacos wouldn't be available until Thursday.

"VERY disappointed!" one fan wrote. "Boo to you," wrote another. One fan posted a letter to the chain online, detailing how he and a friend made a trip to their local Taco Bell after midnight Wednesday to get their first taste of the new tacos. He said they ended up getting the regular Doritos Locos Tacos because they were "basically committed anyway."

Taco Bell, which is owned by Yum Brands Inc. of Louisville, Ky., apologized in a statement and said it was humbled by the overwhelming response.

The chain said it wanted to assure fans that Cool Ranch Doritos Locos Tacos will be available across the United States on Thursday.

It also said it was working to have all participating restaurants honour the early release for the remainder of Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taco Bell's Cool Ranch Doritos Locos Tacos were supposed to launch Wednesday in the U.S. TACOBELL.COM/SCREEN GRAB

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Policy intentions. BoC signals low interest rates will be around awhile

The Bank of Canada is hinting it is less concerned about household debt levels, making it possible to keep attractive interest rates in place longer to spur investment and economic growth.

As expected, the central bank kept its overnight policy rate at one per cent on Wednesday, the level that has been in place for about two and a half years to ease Canada's recovery from the 2008-2009 global financial meltdown.

But the bank also signalled a mild change in its thinking by softening its closely followed forward-looking guidance on rate hikes, suggesting it now expects the current rate to remain in place longer than it had previously expected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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POSITION DESCRIPTION

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Mobile users beware: Web pages now hog 720 KB

Devouring data. HTTP Archive warns the size of an average page has grown 35% in past year

Think viewing a few websites on a smartphone doesn't use much data? Think again.

The average size of a web page continues to grow unabated, a trend that mobile users in particular should take note of.

According to the website HTTP Archive, which regularly studies the top 10,000 most-visited sites online, the average web page now weighs in at about 1.3 megabytes, up about 35 per cent in the last year.

It's not a big data hit when accessing the web at home but it's a different story for users with limited data allowances for their mobile phones.

HTTP Archive suggests the average web page when browsing on a mobile device — accounting for the fact that some websites have mobile-optimized pages and others don't — is about 720 kilobytes.

"That is quite large, that size has really grown a fair bit," says Guy Podjarny, an Ottawa-based web-performance researcher who works for the company Akamai. "Anything that is over the 700 kilobytes or 800 kilobytes range I would mark as too heavy for mobile."

Given that many mobile providers sell plans that start at 150 megabytes a month, basic web browsing — nevermind streaming of audio or video, which quickly gobbles through data — could quickly deplete that allotment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A cleanup worker uses a shovel to remove thick oil that washed ashore from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on July 1, 2010, in Gulfport, Miss. GETTY IMAGES FILE

BP trial. Ex-supervisor says he didn't feel pressured to sacrifice safety before spill

A retired BP employee who supervised drilling operations on the rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico testified Wednesday that he never felt pressure to sacrifice safety to save money, even though the project was behind schedule and over budget.

"I don't believe in pushing people to keep schedules. I'm just not going to do it, especially if safety is involved," former BP well site leader Ronnie Sepulvado said at a federal trial designed to assign fault for the deadly disaster to the companies involved in drilling BP PLC's Macondo well.

Sepulvado wasn't on the Deepwater Horizon rig at the time of the April 20, 2010, well blowout. He left four days earlier because his well-control certificate was about to expire.

His replacement, Robert Kaluza, and fellow BP well-site leader Donald Vidrine are charged with manslaughter in the deaths of 11 rig workers and await a separate trial.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kids programming

Amazon orders pilot for math-focused mystery

Amazon is continuing its push into producing original children's series, ordering its sixth pilot of shows aimed at kids.

The online retailer announced that it will make a test pilot for Sara Solves It, an animated math-focused mystery developed by WGBH and Out of the Blue Enterprises. The show is the sixth pilot geared for kids by Amazon Studios, the retailer's original movie and series production arm.

Launched in 2010, Amazon Studios is moving toward presenting its pilots on its Prime Instant Video service. Amazon says it will choose which series to greenlight for a full season based on viewer reaction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Annual reports

Want to know how Swatch did? Better know some Swiss German

How to show your attachment to your small Alpine country when you're a globally known watch manufacturer? Try writing your annual financial report in the local dialect impenetrable to outsiders.

Swatch Group AG issued its 216-page report for 2012 in Swiss German — an idiosyncratic form of the language that often baffles other native German speakers.

Chairwoman Nayla Hayek said the language switch was meant as "a positive provocation" and she was confident the Swiss "will respond to this expression of our deep connection to our roots with a wink."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONSUMERS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING: *All offers and Selling Price include Delivery & Destination ($1,650 for Kizashi/$1,450 for SX4/$1,650 for Grand Vitara models), Dealer Administration Fee ($399), $100 A/C Excise Tax (where applicable), $20 Tire Tax. Offers exclude PPSA up to $72 (when financing), applicable taxes, license, registration, insurance and a down payment of $0. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. These offers cannot be combined with any other offers and are subject to change without notice. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealers for details. Vehicle images shown may include optional upgrades. Offer available on select models. Limited time finance offers available O.A.C. **Special bi-weekly purchase finance offers are available on a new 2013 Kizashi S iAWD Model GB23AC3 (Selling Price $30,164). 2013 SX4 Crossover JA iAWD with manual transmission Model H3NB52G3 (Selling Price $22,964). 2013 Grand Vitara Urban 4WD with automatic transmission Model L2NB5U3 (Selling Price $29,664). The bi-weekly 60 month term amortized over an 84 month period payment interest rates are based on 2013 Kizashi S iAWD @ 0.9%, purchase financing; bi-weekly payments are $171 with $0 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $888 for a total obligation of $31,052. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,812 plus applicable taxes is due at the end of 60-month period. 2013 SX4 Crossover JA iAWD @ 0%, 2013 Grand Vitara Urban 4WD @ 0%, purchase financing over 72 months, bi-weekly payments are $147/$190 with $0 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0 for a total obligation of $22,964/$29,664. Pricing is calculated on units painted white in colour, other paint colours will cost extra. †Advanced Audio System with Navigation not available on SX4 sedan JE, JA, SX4 hatchback JA, or Kizashi S (S3LB1G3, S3LB113, S3LB613, H3NB1G3, H3NB6G3, H3NB613 or GB23AC3), advanced audio system with navigation standard on all other 2013 models. Offer valid until March 31, 2013.

WHOOPS! I'M ONLY SORT OF SORRY

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I'm sorry I've never said sorry.

'Sorry' has always seemed to be the hardest word, but in 2013 I've seen the error in my thinking. Between bracelet aficionado Lance Armstrong, football coach Rob Ford, and anti-shirt activist Justin Bieber, I see now that 'sorry' is the quickest, easiest path to redemption.

Whether you say 'sorry' on Twitter, to Oprah or at a staged media event, you can take your dirty laundry and stuff it in the hamper of history, even if it never actually comes clean.

You'll notice I never said that these men apologized. I only noted that they said the word 'sorry.' There's a difference.

As I understand it, perhaps naively, an apology involves admitting you were wrong, offering no excuses, and owning your mistake.

Cyclist Armstrong appeared with Oprah and said 'sorry' for using performance-enhancing drugs but also said he never considered it cheating. Oprah, a.k.a. Pope No. 3, still offered absolution and said Armstrong could be "a hero again."

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, when it looked like he might lose his job, said he was sorry "to everyone who believes I should have done this differently." That's sincere in its half-heartedness, at least, though it's hard to fit on a Hallmark card.

And singer Bieber had to apologize for taking the stage at a London concert at 10:30 p.m., which is past his fan base's bedtime. It's a minor transgression to be sure, but the fact he tweeted that "there is no excuse for that" while blaming "technical issues" in the same bird-breath has me assuming he's begun the inevitable downward spiral of a teenage pop star and in eight years will look just like Keith Richards.

Seeing that I can say 'sorry' for my misdeeds without the pain of any emotional heavy-lifting has inspired me to step up. I'm going to follow the example set by these three wise men, and soon I'll be sorry, too.

Here goes.

I'd like to say 'sorry' to my mother for stealing her Chatelaines and Redbooks when I was 11 years old so that I might peruse them for lingerie ads and illustrated guides to breastfeeding. I'd also like to say 'sorry' to the teenage boys who found my magazine stash in the woods and, after an initial flush of excitement, loomed gravely over the pages, looking sad and whispering aloud, "Why would anyone DO this?"

With your permission, ladies and gents, I'd like to be a hero again.

Furthermore, I'd like to say 'sorry' for the times that I have dropped a half-full cup of coffee into a mall garbage can because I'd been too lazy to find a sink. I apologize sincerely to anyone who thinks I possibly could have done this differently, though I frankly don't see how.

I also apologize for when I do it in the future.

Finally, I'm sorry that I have coveted my neighbour's ox. Like, a lot. There's no excuse for that, but I've had some technical difficulties.

Phew! Wow, that really works. I feel better!

Maybe you need to say sorry, too? Perhaps you have a hard time apologizing?

Well, I challenge you to step forward and see how it feels to sort-of, kind-of, in-a-way apologize. After all, you're better safe than sorry.

No wait.

ZOOM

Look, ma: I'm upside down

Canopy reflects wharf's heritage

The crowds appear to walk upside down but on closer inspection this surreal sight is of a giant mirrored canopy.

Recently unveiled in Marseille, France, the Vieux Port pavilion —constructed by architectural firm Foster + Partners — is made of a highly polished stainless steel covering, designed to reflect the city's UNESCO World Heritage-listed harbour.

"At last in Marseille, when you are with your children, you can take in the city's hustle and bustle — without the shopping," Gaëlle, a Marseillaise who came with her two daughters, told the newspaper Le Monde.

The cost of the project, which took one year to construct, amounted to $60.3 million, sources say.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Mirror image

"It's quite literally a reflection of its surroundings — its lightweight steel structure is a minimal intervention and appears as a simple silver line on the horizon."

Spencer de Grey, head of design, Foster + Partners

See for yourself

"Our approach has been to work with the climate, to create shade, but at the same time to respect the space of the harbour — just making it better."

Lord Norman Foster, British architect and head of architectural firm Foster + Partners

Clickbait

Reddit is the reigning champ of the Internet's thriving time-sink industry, providing daily bumper crops of cat pics and Good Guy Greg memes. This week, there's the irresistible Absurd Business Insider Headline Hall of Fame.

1. Nudity, Drunken Stupidity And A 'Jerk-Of-A 'Friend' May Cost A Startup Founder His Acquisition
2. A Guy With A Pirate Fetish is Selling His Insane Caribbean Mansion For $35M
3. You Are Directly Related To This Rat
4. Horses Cure Internet Porn Addiction In South Korea
5. Science Explains Why It Hurts So Much To Get Hit In The Balls

Letters

RE: Thanks for the Mammaries, published March 5

I think it's really important that the issues raised by Jessica Napier be widely read and I can't think of a better place than a free, widely available and distributed community newspaper like Metro. I hope Jessica's frank and direct writing allows others to see how insane and damaging it is to focus so much attention on mere body parts.

Jesse Kelly, London, Ont.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: What makes a "real hipster"?

@theunshakable1: Hipster: someone who spends more money on one outfit than I do on my entire wardrobe just to appear homeless without a care.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE 2

The cast of The Coming Out Monologues share personal and powerful stories. CONTRIBUTED

The personal side of Pride

The Coming Out Monologues.
Play weaves together intimate stories about gender identity

JENNIFER LARAWAY
Jennifer Laraway
edmonton@metronews.ca

The last year has been a blur for producer Tara Brodin. In addition to tackling a master's degree, she was approached to co-ordinate one big coming out by the University of Alberta.

The faculties of education and nursing shared a common interest in the arts and wanted to reach a diverse audience about gender identity, sexual minorities and safe spaces.

"The point is to spread compassion and understanding about the different types of people and relationships out there," says Brodin.

The result is The Coming Out Monologues, which is loosely based on the same presentation style as The Vagina Monologues.

After taking a class on intergenerational theatre, Brodin started casting for the production.

"I loved the idea of excavating these stories and pulling them together. There wasn't really a need to add a lot of drama and theatrics, so it was easy to shape them because they were so powerful to begin with."

It was in her theatre class where Brodin met Charles, a man with one of the most remarkable coming-out stories.

Born in 1935, Charles grew up in less-than-gay-friendly era. In a bid to conform as much as possible, Charles eventually became a priest, earned his doctoral and eventually married before coming out. He's one of the colourful, celebrated characters of The Coming Out Monologues.

Joining Charles on stage are four other "characters," each with their own unique story about how they came out. "Tying it all together is the message of the show: Be true to yourself, stand in your greatness," Brodin explains.

The Coming Out Monologues is presented March 13 and 14 at Dewey's Pub in the old power plant building on the University of Alberta campus. Tickets are available at the door or through Tix on the Square and run $10 for students and $15 for adults.

Pride Week

The play is part of the U of A's Pride Week taking place March 13 to 22.

- A list of celebrations and events are listed at prideweek.ualberta.ca.
- All events are open to the public.

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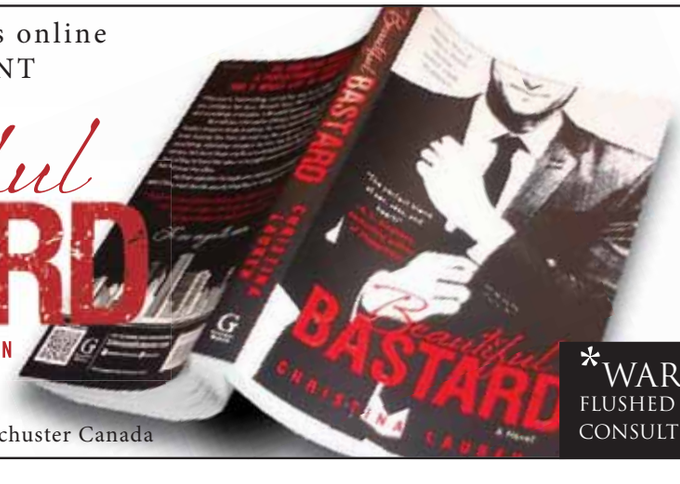
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beautiful-bastard.com Simon & Schuster Canada

Rick Roberts and Sook-Yin Lee play Jack Layton and Olivia Chow in the CBC-TV movie about the late NDP leader's life that traces his career from Toronto municipal politics to his eventual leadership of Canada's official Opposition party. HANDOUT

They know Jack — actors grilled Chow on late husband

Piecing together a life. Stars of CBC-TV movie relied on details from his wife to colour their performances

Olivia Chow says she was determined to ensure that the upcoming CBC-TV movie about late New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton offered a complete picture of her husband.

That meant succumbing to intense "grilling" by stars Rick Roberts, who plays Layton, and Sook-Yin Lee, who plays Chow — as well as executive producer Laszlo Barna, a giant in the field whose past projects have profiled Celine Dion, Shania Twain and Romeo Dallaire.

Still, there was one thing Layton's widow refused to reveal — the cancer that killed him. Chow has never identified what exactly led to Layton's death in August 2011, and although Barna pressed her to reveal it now, she refused.

"Cancer is vicious and we decided — I decided and Jack decided — not to talk about the one that actually killed him," Chow said in a recent interview to promote the film. "We talked about prostate cancer but prostate cancer is infinitely curable. And a lot of men have prostate cancer. We don't want to inflict despair into people that have a serious cancer disease that can take you in a few weeks."

The film Jack kicks off in early 2011, about a year after Layton revealed he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Boasting that his health has rebounded, he embarks on a federal election campaign to lead the New Democrats to unprecedented wins, achieving official Opposition party status for the first time in the party's 50-year history in May 2011. He died just months later at age 61.

Through flashbacks, the film traces Layton's rocky journey from Toronto municipal politics to the national stage, as well as his love affair with Chow.

"The harder part for me was piecing together (Olivia Chow's) personality," said Lee, host of CBC Radio's weekly show Definitely Not the Opera.

"She's a woman of few words — very few words — and even with this litany of questions that we assailed her with she would answer in a very brief (way). And I kept sending more and more questions to her and they were equally as brief. So I just had to sort of lean on my investigative ability as a journalist."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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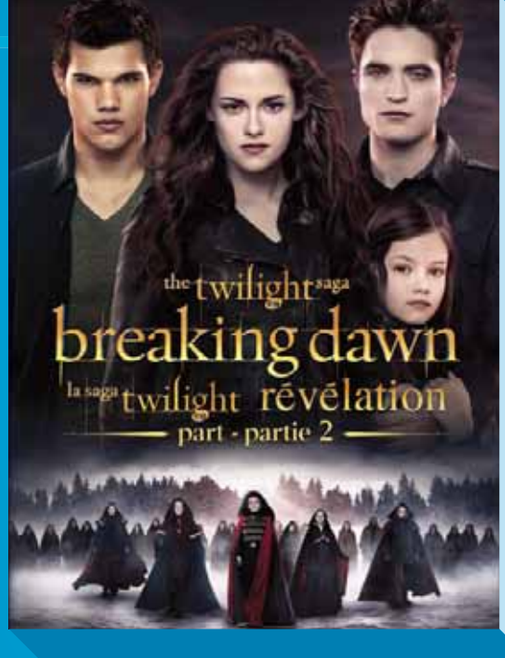

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There's trouble in the Community

Turmoil. Cast talks about behind-the-scenes strife of the cult hit series — and what its uncertain future may hold

Community returned as a mid-season replacement in February — for the first time without any involvement from creator Dan Harmon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nothing's certain in network television, but things have been especially uncertain on the set of Community, the quirky college sitcom that's been a cult favourite, but never a mainstream hit.

"Near cancellation," actress Gillian Jacobs said before a PaleyFest tribute to the series Tuesday night. "On the schedule, off the schedule. Tell us one night. We never air on that night. We lose a creator of our show. Reduced episodes. Everything that can happen has happened to us."

Cast member Chevy Chase left the series without even finishing up the current season, months after the show creator Dan Harmon was fired by Community distributor Sony Pictures Television. (Chase bolted with two episodes unfinished — and according to cast members, doesn't appear at all in one of them.)

"It's always tough to lose people," said actress Alison Brie. "It's very strange and weird. So I can only imagine that coming back for a fifth season without Chevy would also be weird. But, luckily, it didn't affect us too much this season."

Community returned as a mid-season replacement in February — for the first time without any involvement from creator Harmon.

"I think, as far as season four as a whole, I think the heart is still there," said actress Yvette Nicole Brown. "There's a lot of really great adventures to come. You guys haven't seen the best that this season has to offer yet, so I'm excited for you to see it."

As usual, the future of Community is in question. Brie said a fifth season is by no means a given. The series' latest episodes have been clobbered in the ratings by its powerhouse competition, The Big Bang Theory.

As for a possible series finale? "If I had a super-wish list, it would be the biggest paintball (fight)," answered actor Jim Rash — "like the world needs to be saved and only Community can do it. That would be a good way to end."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defenders of the free world

"If I had a super-wish list, it would be the biggest paintball (fight)"

Community actor Jim Rash on his ideas for a series finale

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James Franco thinks it would be awesome if a high-profile Hollywood actor would just come out of the closet already. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Gay rumours partly me: Franco

James Franco is willing to admit he's at least partially responsible for any speculation about whether he's gay or straight. "One of the things that's very much part of my public image is the question of my sexuality," he tells Attitude magazine. "It's not something that bothers me in the slightest. ... It's partly my doing and partly not my doing." But what he's really interested in is a high-profile actor coming out of the closet. "If there's somebody that was well-respected and very secure with their career, I could see it happening in a very positive way."

Which circle of hell will Tina Fey end up in for her Golden Globes jab, Taylor Swift wonders.

Taylor Swift can't take a joke

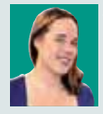
Taylor Swift is making some powerful enemies. She responded to Amy Poehler and Tina Fey's joke at her expense at January's Golden Globes ceremony. "You know, Katie Couric is one of my favourite people," Swift tells Vanity Fair. "She said to me she had heard a quote that she loved that said, 'There's a special place in hell for women who don't help other women.'" While Fey expressed surprise at Swift's annoyance, Poehler has a response of her own: "Aw, I feel bad if she was upset," Poehler tells the Hollywood Reporter. "I am a feminist and she is a young and talented girl. That being said, I do agree I am going to hell. But for other reasons. Mostly boring tax stuff."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Jones was wasted when she made out with Miley's fiancé: Source



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Rumours have been swirling around Miley Cyrus' fiancé Liam Hemsworth and Mad Men star January Jones getting "hot and heavy" at a pre-Oscar party at the Chateau Marmont in February and now Life & Style has additional dirt on the illicit hook-up.

"They went to a private house party, and right in the middle of the party, January was clinging to Liam, saying, 'You're so handsome,'" a guest reveals in the new issue of Life & Style. "He kept saying, 'We can't do this here.' Then they left holding hands and went out in the hallway and were making out. She was wasted. It wasn't good."

For their part, the magazine has pictures of the two stars riding in a car together on the night in question. "When it comes to men, January just goes for it," another source tells the magazine. "She doesn't seem to care if they're with someone or not. It's like a challenge for her, a game."

As challenges go, drunkenly making out with Liam Hemsworth seems like an easy one. What about climbing Mount Kilimanjaro? Or staying off of Facebook for an entire week? Those are actual challenges, January.

Bizarre accusations: One of Gaga's fans claims Madonna encouraged gay men to have unprotected sex during the height of the AIDS crisis.

Little monster alleges Madonna helped spread AIDS

Lady Gaga's fans are continuing the singer's feud with Madonna whether she wants them to or not, this time even accusing the Material Girl singer of helping the spread of AIDS. In a post on the Gaga fan blog Little Monster Artpop, a Gaga fan criticizes the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) for picking Madonna to present an award to Anderson Cooper at their awards ceremony next week. "Back in the 1980s, she encouraged gay men to have unprotected sex," read the post, which was removed shortly after garnering media attention. "While she certainly didn't start the disease, she and her lack of morals helped it spread." The post's author vowed to "strike back" in an unspecified manner if GLAAD did not choose another presenter.

Twitter

@justinbieber
Lovin London. #goodtimes

@solangeknowles
My son will be up wanting breakfast in 2 hours. What am I doing with myself?

@EmWatson
Look.I just want to know exactly what the next ten years of my life is going to look like ok? And to have it organised on a colour coordinated calendar. Is that really too much to ask?

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Landing smoothly and stylishly on the runway

Run Tilda, run.
Model Tilda Lindstam reveals her beauty tricks for fighting sugar cravings, skin breakouts and bloat

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

It's fashion month and the going is tough for the world's most sought-after models. How do you keep yourself feeling healthy and looking hot during this exciting but exhausting time?

"I drink a lot of green juices. I like anything with spinach, kale, celery, ginger and lemon. I can't handle too much dairy during the shows because I'm lactose intolerant. It makes me feel bloated and it's bad for my skin.

"I love Lindt Sea Salt chocolate, but I had to give it up. Sweet food gives me a massive sugar rush, which is inevitably followed by a crash.

"So during the shows, I'll snack on macadamia or brazil nuts and green apples if I need an energy boost."

1 run = 1 cheeseburger

"I do so much walking during casting season that I don't have time to workout. If I have time I go for a run, but that doesn't happen very often — maybe once every two months. And then I indulge in a cheeseburger."

Staying clear of rashes and breakouts

In 2012, this Swedish beauty walked more spring runways than any other model – 68 in total. HANDOUT

"I clean my face after every single show. I bring my own Chanel eye makeup remover because I'm sensitive to the MAC one that they use backstage.

It gives me rashes and a red face! And there's not much you can do about a blemish but cover it up with concealer and drink as much water as possible to clear your skin out."

NYC to London to Milan to Paris

"I get really puffy when I fly. But drinking coconut water and taking vitamin C seems to help. I also use a cooling eye mask the morning of a show if my face is still a bit swollen."

Tilda's top 5 fashion week essentials

Rosebud Perfume Co. Smith's Rosebud Salve

"I love this!"
sephora.com

MAC Studio Finish SPF 35 Concealer

"I don't really wear makeup. This is basically all I use."
maccosmetics.com

Dermalogica: clearing skin wash and active moist moisturizer

"I have very sensitive skin and Dermalogica works really well for me."
dermalogica.com

YSL Rouge Pur Couture the Mats in Rouge Rock

"If I'm going out, I keep my makeup simple. I don't wear any eyeshadow, just a dark red YSL lipstick."
yslbeautyus.com

Chanel: Démaquillant Yeux Intense, gentle bi-phase eye makeup remover

"I take my makeup off after each show."
chanel.com

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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@Jeanne_Beker: What's the best way to psych yourself to get back into the work mode? My vacation's coming to an end. :(

@PiperGilles: finding a new project to work on :)

@maryjanestitt: Only @Jeanne_Beker can look so elegant as she tweets aboard a catamaran hurtling through space!

@Jeanne_Beker: From where I LIE... Cruising the Pacific on a Sunday afternoon!

@Jeanne_Beker: Living the good life, in Costa Rica!

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Madison
Actress
Age: 24

What she's wearing
Vintage hat, Karen Walker sunglasses, Armani vintage jacket, vintage shirt, Roots sweater, Alexander Wang bag, Wilfred pants and Miista shoes.

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: KAYLA ROCCA, KAYLAROCCAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

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Sears*

Cookbook of the Week

An English tradition

Inspired by the fine cuisine served at the fictional Downton Abbey and other grand English country houses at the turn of the 20th century, this book combines food, history and healthy eating.

Included are 220 recipes and colour photos that provide suggestions for entertaining at brunch, afternoon tea, cocktails and dinner. In addition, there is a selection of recipes to host a traditional garden party, and to celebrate English holidays throughout the year. METRO

Steady diet of Downton Abbey

Cookbook cooking. Latest season of the show recently wrapped so to hold you over, try this inspired recipe

A roast chicken can be elegant to serve. This is a great recipe for beginners as it uses lemons to help keep the chicken moist and flavourful, Pamela Foster writes in her book Abbey Cooks Entertain.

Try not to knock it on the floor as Mrs. Patmore famously did in Season 1 of Downton Abbey, but if you do, just dust it off and carry on.

1. Clean and prepare root veg. Roughly chop into large chunks. Place in a roasting pan with a grill rack. Pour a little olive oil over vegetables, add garlic and toss in fresh herbs.

2. Remove any giblets from chicken cavity and wipe down chicken with paper towels. Rub with oil, salt and pepper. You can also rub it with other dried herbs (rosemary, thyme, herbes de Provence).

Roasted Chicken

This recipe serves three. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

3. Gently separate breast skin from meat on each side with your finger. Insert lemon slices and fresh herbs which will help flavour the bird. Lemon does a great job of moisturizing the chicken from the inside out. Depending on the size of the chicken, either cut the second lemon in half, or prick lemon all over and stuff it into the cavity. Tuck wings under the back, but there's no need to truss it (tie the legs together). Place, uncovered, in a 190 C (375 F) oven.

4. As a general rule, calculate a cooking time of 20 minutes per 500 g (1 lb) of meat. The temperature of the chicken needs to reach 74 to 77 C (165 to 170 F) when a meat thermometer is placed in the thickest part of the meat, avoiding any bones. If you don't have a thermometer, the juices should run clear when you poke into the thigh.

5. When chicken is cooked, let it rest for 20 minutes to let juices settle into meat. If you cut it too soon, you will see all the flavour on your cutting board. Remove from roasting pan, cover with tinfoil and get your table setting ready. Carve chicken and serve with roasted vegetables. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ABBEY COOKS ENTERTAIN BY PAMELA FOSTER (PAMELA POWERED INC., 2012)

Ingredients

- Each 3 carrots, 3 parsnips, 3 potatoes, 1 onion
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves
- Fresh herbs: rosemary, sage, thyme, flat-leaf parsley
- 1 whole chicken (1.5 kg/3 lb)
- Kosher salt and pepper
- Dried herbs of your choice (optional)
- 2 lemons (one thinly sliced)

Strawberry Chocolate Russe

This recipe serves four to six. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

Just the sweet stuff

Charlotte Russe is a French dessert made with ladyfingers and filled with a fruit-flavoured cream filling set with gelatin.

1. Clean and set out 4 to 6 individual charlotte moulds. No moulds? Improvise with large soup cans, both ends removed.

2. In bowl, mix gelatin powder with 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the sugar. In a saucepan, warm 250 ml (1 cup) of strawberry purée with remaining sugar. Mix gelatin-sugar mixture into warm strawberry purée, mixing well to prevent any lumps from forming. Add in remaining strawberry purée and let mix cool.

3. Fold in one-third of whipped cream and then remaining whipped cream and yogurt.

4. Carefully trim ladyfingers into 7.5-cm (3-inch) lengths. Ends can be used in the base. Stand ladyfingers on end with rounded side out and rounded edge up, and carefully line inside of each mould, ensuring there are no gaps. Place scrap pieces inside to create base.

5. Gently pour or spoon filling into moulds. If desired, you could add a layer of chopped sliced berries in the middle and then add more filling to the top.

6. Refrigerate charlotte for at least 3 or 4 hours. Filling will be solid so you should be able to easily, but gently, wiggle the mould away from the charlotte. Garnish with fresh berries and a dollop of non-fat strained yogurt. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ABBEY COOKS ENTERTAIN BY PAMELA FOSTER (PAMELA POWERED INC., 2012)

Ingredients

- 25 ml (5 tsp) gelatin powder
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) sugar or sugar substitute, divided
- 500 ml (2 cups) strawberry purée (about 300 ml/1 1/4 cups strawberries, mashed), divided
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) whipping cream, whipped soft
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) non-fat plain yogurt, plus extra for garnish
- Ladyfingers
- 250 to 500 ml (1 to 2 cups) sliced berries

Cook live with Vikram Vij

Last-minute grocery list

Winning chef in Vancouver and Metro want to help you find time for family meals. Our mission starts in the form of Canada's first live online cooking show to air today at 6 p.m. ET at metronews.ca/vij-cooklive.

If you still haven't downloaded the grocery list, we've got you covered.

Vij Family's Chicken Curry
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 2 cups finely chopped onions (2 large)
- 3-inch stick of cinnamon
- 3 tbsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 tbsp chopped ginger
- 2 cups chopped tomatoes (2 large)
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp ground coriander
- 1 tbsp garam masala
- 1/2 tsp ground cayenne pepper
- 3 lbs chicken thighs, bone in
- 1 cup sour cream, stirred
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro (including stems)

Cumin Basmati Rice
- 2 cups basmati rice
- 3 cups cold water for soaking
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- 1 cup finely chopped onions (1 medium-large)
- 3 3/4 cups water for cooking

- **Have a question?** They can be tweeted live during the show using the hashtag #vijcooklive.
- **Online.** Remember to visit metronews.ca/vij-cooklive today at 6 p.m. ET for Canada's first live online cooking show.

Catching seasonal designer deals

Throughout the year sales are almost guaranteed when clearing out old stock and bringing in new items. But knowing exactly when old stock is being discounted is the key to saving money on large ticket items. Everyone knows the best time to buy a winter coat is at the end of winter, and buying a snowmobile in the middle of summer can get you the best deal. But what about those home-related items we all need? Here's a list of some big savings you should expect over the next month or two.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Chinaware and flatware

Spring is when new tabletop designs are introduced (just in time for June weddings). Older china and flatware patterns go on sale to make room for the new stuff. **Tip:** If you have a great collection already, look for pieces to complete your set on sale. If investing in new tableware, keep the colours neutral so that the look stays current for a long time.

Perfume

The two biggest times for perfume sales is Valentine's Day and Mother's Day, so those in-between months is when perfume companies love to have promotions. **Tip:** Perfume keeps for a very long time. Consider buying as Christmas gifts.

Luggage

Many travel throughout the summer and just before that time is when new luggage styles are introduced. Look to the early spring for retailers clearing out old styles. **Tip:** The full set deals are the most economical. Shop with a friend and split up the set.

Cookware

Not a lot of pot/pan sales happen until fall, when retailers often have great incentives to purchase full sets. **Tip:** Fall is a great time to purchase some as a wedding gift or for a second set for a cottage and buying a full 10-piece boxed set will usually offer up the best value overall.

Vacuum cleaners

Spring cleaning time starts in April and retailers are making room for their new models. **Tip:** Look for vacuums that are smaller, lightweight and quieter.

Televisions

The biggest time for television sales is the fall and early winter. After Christmas there isn't much promise for selling televisions as we start thinking about spring/summer activities, so retailers are trying to get rid of the 2012/early 2013 models. **Tip:** Buy your television ahead of a family room renovation and keep it boxed until the reno is finished.

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✓ Cash Back ✓ Over Balance ✓ Judgments

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Creative concepts help add some comfort and function to your home

DIY ideas. Bringing in your own artistic flair may be just what your family room needs

Creating a space you want to live in doesn't have to be boring. Get inspired by new series Made in Milwaukee, where Jeremy Sham and his team don't just renovate rooms but create original works of art.

It can be tough to get design inspiration for a family room because they tend to always be messy — full of clutter and people. However, that doesn't have to be the case with these fun ideas:

Organization

Create stations within the room to keep mess and clutter in one spot for easy clean-up, while keeping an area sectioned off for the adults. Add a large television shelving unit to put your movies and collections on display.

You can get creative with your shelving options — such as re-using hardwood flooring for durable shelves, or plexiglass shelving where items will appear as if they're floating.

Walls

Breathe life into your family room with paint. Opt for an ombré wall getting lighter with the colour as the paint gets closer to the ceiling, which creates the illusion of high ceilings.

Painting one wall in the room a bright color or applying a dramatic wall paper design can add an artsy element to the room. Magnetic paint is a kid friendly and fun option. Simply paint over the current wall color and let dry, then stick and unstick to your heart's content.

Another unique idea to consider for your children's entertainment is a chalkboard wall or chalkboard table top. Chalk board paint is easily accessible and has the same application process as regular paint.

Décor

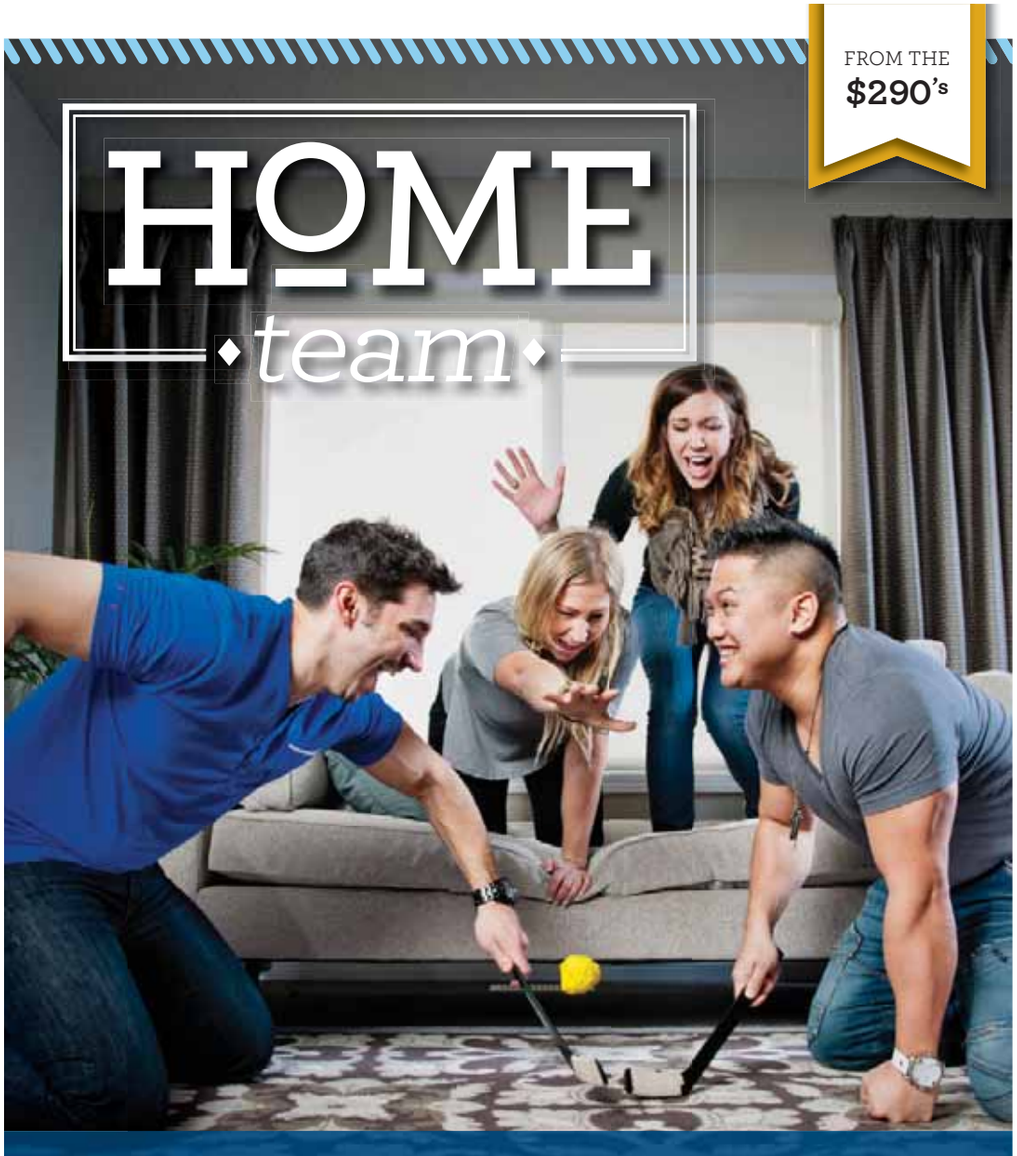
3D wall art is a popular trend with endless options such as stickers, plastic flowers and butterflies, and even dinosaur heads.

Arrange the 3D butterflies and flowers in an eye-engaging design and you will feel as if you're at an art gallery.

Next time you're considering renovating your dingy family room, think originality not ordinary. Both you and your family will thank you for it.

MADE IN MILWAUKEE AIRS TUESDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA

Host Jeremy Sham of the new series Made in Milwaukee. HANDOUT



Today traffic in the crease is a bit more cozy

Remember all the things you were going to do when you had your own place? Well, 6-footers playing carpet hockey take up a lot more space. And, whether you capitalized on all your chances or really played as a team, we're pretty sure that this is the best game you can name. Brookfield Duplex Homes are made for memories.

BuildwithBrookfield.com

Brookfield Homes

The Best Places to Call Home

© 2013 P&G

Stock-up and Save on all your Spring Cleaning essentials!

Visit these participating retailers this weekend and enjoy savings on all your spring cleaning needs:

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Real Canadian Superstore® big on fresh, low on price!™ SaveEasy® so quick, so good! FORTINOS® Your Supermarket with a heart!™

SPORTS 4

Martin keeps playoff hopes alive

Alberta skip Kevin Martin makes a shot during the evening draw against Jamie Koe of the Northwest Territories/Yukon at the Tim Hortons Brier on Wednesday at Rexall Place. Martin improved to 3-4 with an 8-3 victory over Koe. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilers have 'complete competitor' in Brown

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ryan Kennedy
edmonton@metronews.ca

Hard-nosed player

Sure, he'll throw himself like a torpedo into his hits, but he'll also battle in the corners and distract opposing defencemen.

Mike Brown could not save the Edmonton Oilers from an ignominious loss to Columbus. But hey, he's an energy guy, not a miracle worker.

The newest member of the franchise comes via trade from Toronto, where the Maple Leafs garnered just a fourth-round pick in the 2014 draft in exchange. This actually isn't too surprising, given the trade market right now and the values placed on those being dealt. But Brown is no stiff.

"He's a complete competitor," said Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf. "It's tough to lose a guy like that."

Simply put, Brown was pushed out by Toronto's newfound depth. The third line has featured scorers, while the fourth line packs a wallop with heavyweight enforcers Colton Orr and Frazer McLaren, the latter of whom was picked up on waivers earlier this year from San Jose. That left no room for Brown, a light heavyweight with speed who can really cause havoc during his shifts.

This is Edmonton's gain, though Brown won't appear in the scoring column very often. Some have questioned why a team that already pays Darcy Hordichuk and Ben Eager would need a scrapper, but as Brown showed in his Oilers debut, he's more than a pair of fists. He has the sense to get in front of the net and muck it up. Sure, he'll throw himself like a torpedo into his hits, but he'll also battle in the corners and distract opposing defencemen. That's what sets him apart from the standard brawler.

Though his minutes were miniscule in Toronto this season, his first foray in an Oilers uniform had him back around the 10-minute mark, where his ice time generally hovered last season. And hey, let's be frank; Toronto wouldn't have traded him were he not expendable. But the Oilers have different needs, and perhaps Brown can liven up the bottom six in a new way.

A fourth-round pick could turn out to be as good as Chicago's Niklas Hjalmarsson or Phoenix's Keith Yandle — both taken in that seeding in 2005. Or it could be a miss, such as the first two players taken in the fourth round that same year: Marek Bartanus and Olivier Legault (neither of whom have come close to playing an NHL game). At least with Brown, the Oilers have something tangible right now.

MMA

Shields picked to fight The Chosen One at UFC 161

Former Strikeforce champion Jake Shields will face highly rated welterweight Tyron "The Chosen One" Woodley at UFC 161 in Winnipeg on June 15.

Heavyweight Pat "HD" Barry, meanwhile, will take on former LSU fullback Shawn "The Savage" Jordan.

Previously announced matches include interim bantamweight champion Renan Barao taking on Eddie Wineland in the main event and Dan Henderson meeting former light-heavyweight champion Rashad Evans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB spring training

Hunter homers as Tigers top Jays

Torii Hunter hit his first home run with the Detroit Tigers, Justin Verlander allowed one hit in four innings and the Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 on Wednesday.

Brandon Morrow started for Toronto and allowed one unearned run in two innings while striking out three. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Teixeira latest injured Yankee

Mark Teixeira is going to be out until at least early May with a strained right-wrist tendon, the latest major injury setback for the New York Yankees.

Teixeira was hurt swinging a bat on Tuesday in an indoor cage during pre-game warm-ups with the U.S. WBC team. Yankees doctors in New York on Wednesday predicted he will miss eight to 10 weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Daniel Carcillo, left, of the Chicago Blackhawks celebrates his game-winning goal against the Colorado Avalanche with teammates Niklas Hjalmarsson and Johnny Oduya on Wednesday in Chicago. JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Carcillo plays hero in Blackhawks' latest triumph

NHL. Chicago now with 11 straight wins, at least a point in each of its 24 games to begin season

On Wednesday

Blackhawks	Avalanche
3	2

Daniel Carcillo scored the tiebreaking goal with 49.3 seconds left in regulation and the Chicago Blackhawks won their 11th consecutive game, beating the Colorado Avalanche 3-2 on Wednesday night to extend the best start in NHL history.

Jonathan Toews and Andrew Shaw also scored for Chicago (21-0-3), which reached the halfway point of a lockout-shortened season without losing in regulation. The remarkable Blackhawks have earned at least one point in their first 24 games, stretching their NHL record.

Dating back to last year's regular season, the streak is 30 games.

The Blackhawks broke the previous team record for consecutive wins with their 10th in a row Tuesday night, 5-3 over Minnesota.

Chicago's overall points streak is the second-longest during one season in NHL history. The 1979-80 Philadelphia Flyers set the league record at 35 games with a 25-0-10 run.

Carcillo knocked in a rebound with a backhand shot, his first goal of the season, after Semyon Varlamov made two in-close stops on Viktor Stalberg during a scrum in the crease.

Toews scored a highlight-reel, short-handed goal early in the third period, beating two Avalanche players to tie the score at 2. Chicago trailed after two periods for only the fourth time this season.

John Mitchell and Matt Duchene scored for Colorado, which has lost six of seven.

Ray Emery made 20 saves for the Blackhawks to improve to 10-0.

Blackhawks forward Marian Hossa sat out with an upper-body injury. Shaw left the game late in the second period and teammate Patrick Sharp left midway through the third.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	45	14	.763	—
New York	37	21	.638	7½
Indiana	38	23	.623	8
Brooklyn	35	26	.574	11
Atlanta	34	26	.567	11½
Chicago	34	27	.557	12
Boston	33	27	.550	12½
Milwaukee	30	28	.517	14½
Toronto	24	38	.387	22½
Philadelphia	23	37	.383	22½
Detroit	23	40	.365	24
Cleveland	21	40	.344	25
Washington	19	40	.322	26
Orlando	17	45	.274	29½
Charlotte	13	48	.213	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	48	14	.774	—
Oklahoma City	44	16	.733	3
L.A. Clippers	43	19	.694	5
Memphis	40	19	.678	6½
Denver	40	22	.645	8
Golden State	34	27	.557	13½
Houston	33	29	.532	15
Utah	32	29	.525	15½
L.A. Lakers	31	31	.500	17
Portland	28	32	.467	19
Dallas	27	33	.450	20
Minnesota	21	37	.362	25
Phoenix	21	40	.344	26½
New Orleans	21	41	.339	27
Sacramento	21	41	.339	27

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

Wednesday's results
Brooklyn 99 Charlotte 78
Atlanta 107 Philadelphia 96
Miami 97 Orlando 96
Cleveland 104 Utah 101
Boston 83 Indiana 81
New York 87 Detroit 77
Minnesota 87 Washington 82
L.A. Lakers 108 New Orleans 102
Memphis 91 Portland 85
Dallas 112 Houston 108
Toronto 98 Phoenix 71
San Antonio 101 Chicago 83
Sacramento at Golden State
Milwaukee at L.A. Clippers

Thursday's games — All times Eastern
Oklahoma City at New York, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	23	15	8	0	81	67	30
New Jersey	23	10	8	5	56	65	25
NY Rangers	21	11	8	2	55	53	24
Philadelphia	24	11	12	1	68	72	23
NY Islanders	23	10	11	2	70	78	22

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	23	14	5	4	71	59	32
Boston	20	14	3	3	60	46	31
Toronto	24	15	9	0	73	61	30
Ottawa	24	12	8	4	56	49	28
Buffalo	24	9	13	2	63	77	20

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Carolina	22	13	8	1	67	62	27
Winnipeg	22	10	11	1	56	68	21
Tampa Bay	23	10	12	1	81	73	21
Washington	21	9	11	1	59	62	19
Florida	23	7	11	5	59	83	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	24	21	0	3	78	46	45
Detroit	23	11	8	4	63	60	26
St. Louis	22	11	9	2	64	67	24
Nashville	23	9	9	5	47	59	23
Columbus	23	7	12	4	53	69	18

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	22	11	6	5	63	61	27
Minnesota	22	11	9	2	52	56	24
Calgary	21	9	8	4	61	69	22
Edmonton	22	8	9	5	54	62	21
Colorado	22	8	10	4	53	65	20

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	21	15	3	3	75	60	33
Los Angeles	21	12	7	2	60	52	26
San Jose	22	11	7	4	51	50	26
Phoenix	22	11	8	3	67	63	25
Dallas	22	11	9	2	61	63	24

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

Wednesday's results
Toronto 5 Ottawa 4
Chicago 3 Colorado 2
Calgary 4 San Jose 1
Phoenix at Anaheim

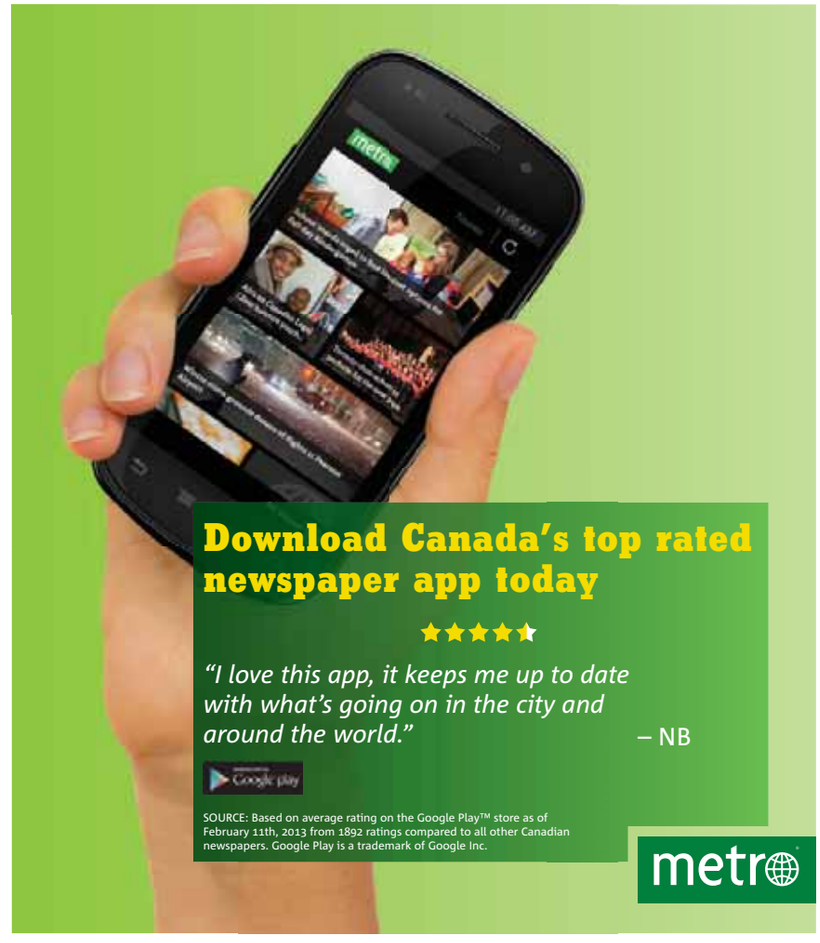
Tuesday's results
N.Y. Islanders 6 Montreal 3
Florida 4 Winnipeg 1
Columbus 4 Edmonton 3 (SO)
San Jose 3 Vancouver 2 (SO)
Carolina 4 Buffalo 3
N.Y. Rangers 4 Philadelphia 2
Tampa Bay 5 New Jersey 2
Washington 4 Boston 3 (OT)
Los Angeles 6 St. Louis 4
Chicago 5 Minnesota 3
Detroit 2 Colorado 1

Thursday's games — All times Eastern
Buffalo at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
NY Rangers at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.
Florida at Washington, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

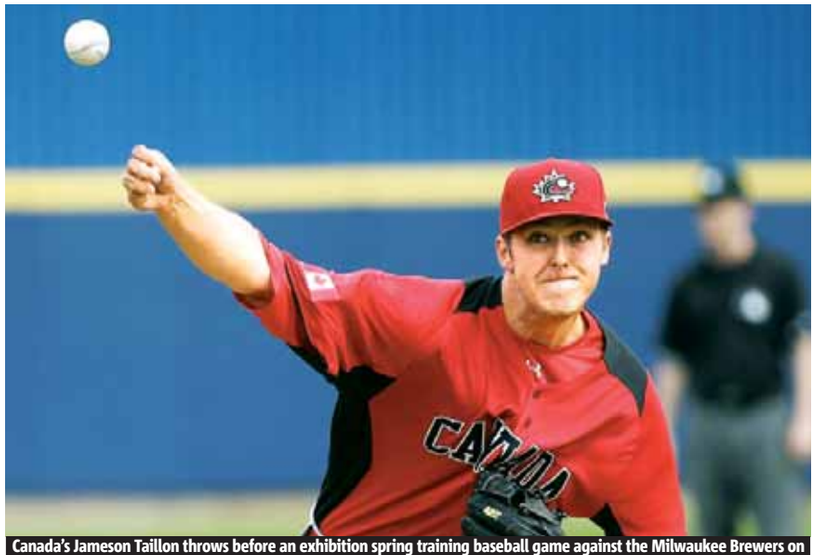
	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Phg	11	25	36
Stamkos, TBL	17	17	34
Saint Louis, TBL	6	24	30
Vanek, Buf	12	16	28
Staal, Car	12	16	28
Kunitz, Phg	12	16	28
Tavares, NYI	14	13	27
Kane, Chi	12	15	27
Voracek, Phi	10	17	27
Moulson, NYI	11	14	25
Ribeiro, Wash	8	17	25
Getzlaf, Ana	8	17	25
Zetterberg, Det	6	19	25
Kadri, Tor	9	14	23
Datsyuk, Det	8	15	23
Giroux, Phi	7	16	23
Semin, Car	6	17	23
Elias, NJ	6	17	23
Malkin, Phg	5	18	23
Neal, Phg	14	8	22
Sedin, Van	8	14	22
Sedin, Van	4	18	22
Thornton, SJ	4	18	22

Wednesday's games not included



Youngster Taillon not fazed by early U.S. test

WBC. Canada's young ace will face powerhouse to the south this Sunday



Canada's Jameson Taillon throws before an exhibition spring training baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday. MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The burden of expectation should probably weigh more heavily on a young pitcher being groomed for stardom.

Jameson Taillon is the highest-drafted Canadian in major-league history after being taken second overall — one spot behind Washington Nationals star Bryce Harper — in 2010. He's the pitcher the Pittsburgh Pirates hope will one day anchor their starting rotation.

He's also Canada's wild card at the World Baseball Classic.

Taillon will start against the United States on Sunday, a strategy Canada hopes will surprise its powerful rival in the same way Adam Loewen did when he held the U.S. scoreless in an 8-6 win in 2006. Taillon's being asked to give Canada a chance against all-star hitters such as Ryan Braun, David Wright and Giancarlo Stanton.

No sweat. Taillon can't wait.

"I wouldn't say it's intimidating," said Taillon. "For me, I've really got nothing to lose. Those guys are five-, six-, 10-time all-stars, so I'm just going to go out there and have some fun with it, see what I can do."

Any fear Taillon might have felt was wiped away last Thursday during his first spring training start for the Pirates against the Boston Red Sox, when he gave up one unearned run and one hit with three strikeouts through two innings.

"I'm out there facing, I don't even remember who it was, it was a big leaguer," he said. "And I was sitting there and I was like, 'Man, how am I going to get this guy out? I watched him on TV. How am I going to get him out?' It worked out well for me, but I think getting that experience out of the way, I'll be fine going into this."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Young hope

At 21, Jameson Taillon is the youngest player on the Canadian team.

- Before the team's roster was announced, many of Taillon's teammates didn't know he was Canadian. Born in Winter Haven, Fla., to Canadian parents, Taillon grew up in the U.S. The 6-6, 225-pound right hander holds dual citizenship and played for the U.S. as a junior.

MLB. Teixeira the latest Yankee to be put on shelf

Mark Teixeira is going to be out at least until early May with a strained right-wrist tendon, the latest major injury setback for the New York Yankees.

Teixeira was hurt swinging a bat Tuesday in an indoor cage during pre-game warm-ups with the U.S. WBC team. Yankees doctors in New York on Wednesday predicted he will miss eight to 10 weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Teixeira ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Golf

No escape from spotlight for McIlroy

As if quitting in the middle of a golf tournament didn't bring Rory McIlroy enough attention, it might not let up on the golf course.

McIlroy has been going through damage control the last five days after his abrupt departure when he was 7-over par through eight holes and decided to call it quits at the Honda Classic. He faced the media on Wednesday and took all the blame.

"I actually think in the long run, Friday will be a blessing in disguise," he said, referring to the day he withdrew last week. "It was like it just sort of released a valve, and all that pressure that I've been putting on myself just went away. And I was like, 'Just go out and have fun. It's not life or death out there. It's only a game.'

"I had sort of forgotten that this year."

The world's No. 1 player won't be able to escape the spotlight when the Cadillac Championship gets under way on Thursday in Doral, Fla.

This World Golf Championship tends to group the top players in the world ranking, meaning McIlroy gets to spend the opening two rounds with Tiger Woods and Luke Donald

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I just sort of let it all get to me."

Rory McIlroy, who says his poor play this season came to a boiling point at the Honda Classic.

Heat win 16th straight

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade takes the ball to the basket as Nikola Vucevic of the Orlando Magic looks on on Wednesday night in Miami. Wade had 24 points and LeBron James scored 26, including a go-ahead layup with 3.2 seconds left, and the Heat scrambled late to beat the Magic 97-96. CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Raptors sink Suns in Phoenix

DeMar DeRozan scored 15 points and Amir Johnson added 14 to lead the Toronto Raptors to a 98-71 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

Seldom-used Sebastian Telfair scored 13 points in his return to Phoenix as the Raptors ended a five-game losing streak.

Markieff Morris scored 12 points and was the only player in double figures for the Suns, who committed a season-high 29 turnovers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't worry too much if your thoughts take you in directions you would not want to admit to in public. Think before you turn thoughts into deeds though.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Someone you meet today will instantly attract you. It could be the start of a life-long friendship or even a passionate romantic liaison. Either way it's going to be a lot of fun — and that's good.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may be tempted to tell the world your plans but with Mercury, your ruler, still moving retrograde that might not be such a good idea. Only let those you really trust know what you are up to.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will see some strange things today but don't take any of it seriously. Maintain a detached attitude, even though there may be times when you want to bang a few heads together.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There is no telling what spur-of-the-moment decisions you will make over the next 24 hours, but you will certainly do something out of the ordinary. Try though to look ahead and see what the consequences might be.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You could easily impose your will on other people today but is that such a good idea? A little bit of thought should help you see that if you come on too strong you'll lose.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do you let your heart rule your head today? It might be a smart idea as with mind planet Mercury still moving retrograde your thoughts may be all over the place. What does your inner voice tell you?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is no point trying to coerce people whose worldview is completely different to your own. All that does is make them oppose you even more. Accept that you see things differently.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is a danger that you will bounce back and forth between two extremes today. It may not bother you much but it could turn important people against you, so think before you act.

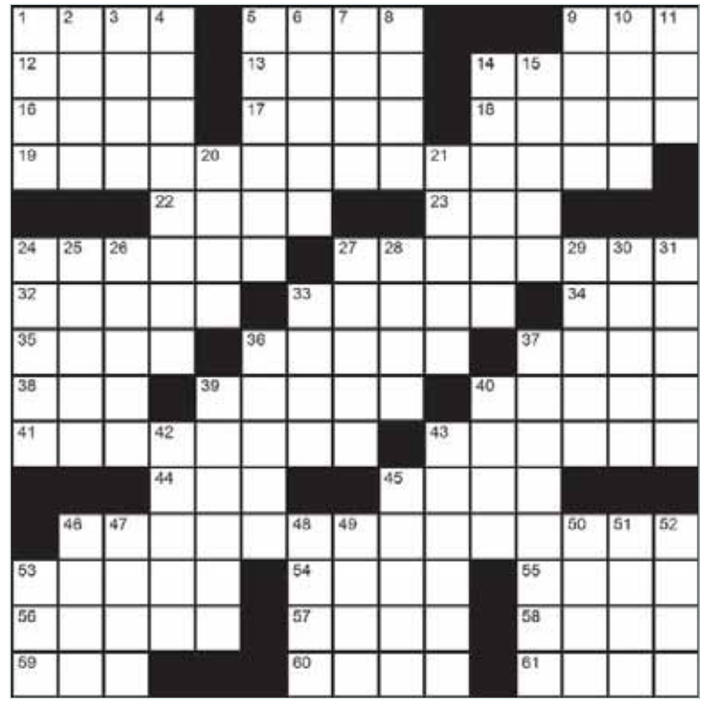
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Even if you disagree strongly with what loved ones are up to right now, you are advised to gloss over the fact and stay on good terms. It gives you a bargaining chip for later.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Feelings will be running high today and you may wish you could switch off the world. So why don't you? While everyone else is busy arguing you can sneak off.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A relationship may be going through a tough time but don't give up on it. Love planet Venus in your sign links to both Saturn and Pluto today, which means you are nowhere near the end of the road yet. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

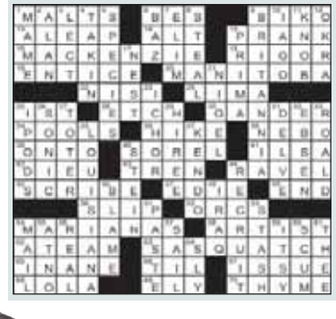
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Eddie Cochran's "__ Everybody"
5. Fuel additives at Indy
9. Gore and Biden, e.g.
12. Two notes to follow Do
13. Road type
14. Town __ (News-giver of yore)
16. __ instant (Quickly): 2 wds.
17. Toward shelter (Sailing term)
18. Moms of cousins
19. "Break It to Them Gently" singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
22. Hosp. readouts
23. Mr. Garfunkel
24. Purple dinosaur
27. Vancouver-born actor Ryan
32. "She's _ __" by Tom Jones
33. Shoe parts
34. Cool, retro-style
35. Intl. alliance created in 1949
36. "You've Got Mail" recipient
37. Ceremonial staff
38. Nice summer?
39. Gwyneth's "Shakespeare in Love" (1998) role
40. Stone worker
41. Sittings
43. Actor Mr. Depardieu
44. 'Mich' add-on (Mr. Douglas)
45. Very: French
46. "The Safety Dance" group: 3 wds.
53. Potato pancake
54. 1994 Pulp album: __ '_' Hers
55. Actress Jessica
56. "Drive __" by The Beatles: 2 wds.
57. Don't give _ __ (Care less)
58. TV producer Norman
59. Refusals
60. Telegram
61. Ms. Flynn Boyle

Down
1. House, hip-style
2. Restaurant dish lister
3. Actor Mr. Epps
4. Big name in video games
5. Like 'groovy' for 'great'
6. Powders
7. Tire: French
8. Appear
9. Actor Mr. Rhames
10. Dogs and cats
11. Lon Chaney and Douglas Fairbanks, e.g., to their sons
14. Terrier dogs from Scotland
15. "__ __ You" by Bryan Adams
20. __-dokey
21. Singer/guitarist John
24. Scourges
25. Having wings
26. Appraises
27. Breadbasket items
28. Zeno of __ (Ancient Greek philosopher)
29. __ Apso (Dog from Tibet)
30. Designer's talent
31. Fork out
33. Shortly
36. Garlic sauce
37. Amanda __ ("Let It Rain" singer from Toronto)
39. TV show fan
40. "__ the Parents" (2000)
42. Coffee brand
43. '90s music genre
45. "__ __, with Love" (1967)
46. Deli dressing
47. And so on, plurally [abbr.]
48. Get out the freeze
49. __-__ (Sound system)
50. Epithet for Athena
51. Skier's up-the-slopes ride
52. Ms. Gilbert
53. K-O link

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4	8				9	1	
			1		5			
7	2			6			4	5
		5	3		4	6		
4								3
		3	2		7	1		
9	5			7			3	1
			8		2			
	7	4				2	6	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	7	2	3	5	4	6	9
9	2	3	1	4	6	5	8	7
5	6	4	8	7	9	3	1	2
2	7	8	5	1	4	6	9	3
3	9	1	6	8	7	2	4	5
6	4	5	9	2	3	1	7	8
4	5	2	7	6	8	9	3	1
7	3	9	4	5	1	8	2	6
8	1	6	3	9	2	7	5	4

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: -8° MIN: -12°	MAX: -4° MIN: -12°	MAX: 0° MIN: -11°

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#W2197
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#W2149
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#W2238
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2008 Infiniti EX35
#W2141
FULLY LOADED
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2008 Mazda CX9 GT AWD
#W2177
NAVIGATION
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#W2230
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